

MUSTANG DAILY

1916

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

2006

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 61°

Low 39°



Mustangs lose
a nail-biter to
Pacific

IN SPORTS, 8

Roses are red,
violets are blue,
our poem
awaits you

IN DIVERSIONS, 5

Poly Poetry

Volume LXIX, Number 73

Friday, January 27, 2006

www.mustangdaily.net

Congress debates preferential funding for students

Sarah Winter
DAILY BRUIN (UCLA)

LOS ANGELES — College students who have an interest in math, science or certain foreign languages and who demonstrate financial need may soon have a new source of federal aid.

Appearing at the same time as a proposed \$12.7 billion cut in federal student loans, a budget bill awaiting approval by the U.S. House of Representatives would allocate \$3.75 billion for college aid to low-income students who have completed a certain course of study in high school.

The new program, dubbed the Academic Competitiveness Grant program, would grant federal financial aid to eligible students based on their performance in certain high school courses considered "rigorous" by Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, a designation that has not yet been defined.

In an attempt to decrease the budget deficit and redirect federal spending on education, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce has suggested reforms aimed at making student loan programs more efficient and awarding grants to high-achieving low-income students.

For students' first two years in college, their eligibility "is based on their performance and the rigor of their high school program," said Steve Forde, spokesman for the House committee.

As they advance toward earning a degree, students pursuing studies in math, science, engineering and certain critical foreign languages will be eligi-

see Funding, page 2

UNIVERSITY UNION ACTIVITIES



MICHAEL MULLADY MUSTANG DAILY

When the UU Hour is cancelled due to rain, like it was Thursday, many students hang out at Mustang Lanes. It's all in a day's work for Steve Goldie, an industrial technology senior and manager of Mustang Lanes, who frequently adjusts the pin elevator, which keeps the flow of the pins going after they are struck down and reorganizes the pins to set them back up. Located on the first floor of the University Union, Mustang Lanes features 10 bowling lanes with automatic scoring, four lanes of bumper bowling, a video arcade, a billiard room with eight full-size pool tables and a bowling and billiard pro shop.

Ringling in the Year of the Dog

James Mellor
MUSTANG DAILY

It's 2006, which means it's time to bring in the Year of the Dog.

Cal Poly's Chinese Student Association will celebrate its 49th annual Chinese New Year banquet this Saturday.

At 6 p.m. in the Chumash Auditorium, the CSA will bring in the Year of the Dog with a traditional seven-course Chinese meal and live entertainment provided by the Cal Poly Lion Dance Team, the Ribbon Dance Team and the Umbrella Dance Team. There will also be a special performance by the Wu Shu Tai Chi center.

The event is open to all Cal Poly students and the San Luis Obispo community.

"We have a display of what Chinese culture is all about for that event, and bringing in the new year with good food and good entertainment," said Christopher Ho, president of CSA.

As we become more assimilated into the American culture, we lose a sense of what our traditions are, but in that sense we also break those barriers and form our new culture.

—Christopher Ho
president of Cal Poly's Chinese Student Association

Discover his own culture is something Ho has been trying to figure out since he has been at Cal Poly.

"It's hard to (describe one's culture)," Ho said. "Yes, we take off our shoes when we go into a house, we

eat food with chopsticks, we eat rice during dinner time instead of rolls... it has to do a lot with family. Going back to tradition, there is a great bond between parents and their children."

"My own parents gave up everything to put my brothers and I through college," Ho added as he described his own experience growing up as a Chinese-American. "It's just the sacrifice Chinese families have for themselves. They look out for their own, we look out for our people within our family."

Since Chinese families do a lot for each other, "A lot is expected of us in return," he continued. "It's an obligation we have to fulfill for our parents."

Being at a university and earning

see Chinese, page 2



COURTESY PHOTO

In last year's 48th annual Chinese New Year's banquet, Cal Poly's Chinese Student Association celebrated the Year of the Rooster.

Funding

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ble to receive an Academic Competitiveness Grant.

Low-income college freshmen and sophomores who completed a rigorous course of study in high school and are eligible for Pell Grants could receive between \$750 and \$1,300 per year.

Eligible juniors and seniors pursuing a degree in the physical sciences, engineering or certain foreign languages would be awarded \$4,000 on a year-to-year basis.

Applicants must also have at least a 3.0 GPA and be a U.S. citizen to be eligible for the grants.

Because students' eligibility would be based in part on the quality of their high school education, concerns have been raised over the availability of federal financial aid for lower-income students who attend high schools that do not offer courses deemed by the Department of Education to be sufficiently rigorous.

"I think it will present a lot of challenges because it's taking the emphasis off the individual student and putting it onto the school," said Penny Sommers, coordinator of College Partnership and Curricular Enrichment for high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

"I'm concerned that if financial aid for higher education is awarded based on the school, rather than the individual student's needs, our students that are the most needy will have to sacrifice the most," she said.

Louise Jones, president of the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, said she is concerned about how the term "rigorous" will be defined and how fairly the grant money will be allocated.

She questioned whether the program will "be able to be adminis-

tered evenly or fairly across all high schools because some of the high schools don't have the rigorous courses."

The measure would also allow greater federal involvement in high school education, which has typically been governed by local authori-

I'm concerned that if financial aid for higher education is awarded based on the school, rather than the individual student's needs, our students that are the most needy will have to sacrifice the most.

—Penny Sommers
coordinator of College Partnership and Curricular Enrichment for high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District

ties.

The U.S. Constitution does not define a role for the government in education, and some educators have challenged the merits of its potentially expanded role.

The Constitution implies that "the control of the schools is the responsibility of local governments and the state, and this (legislation) is going to change that," Sommers said.

By increasing the emphasis on the study of math and science, officials are hoping to keep America prominent in the global competition in those fields of study.

"We are trying to improve our foundation for technology and

innovation as we compete with other countries around the world," Forde said.

President Bush stressed the importance of math and science in the nation's curriculum in a Q-and-A period following a speech he gave on Monday at Kansas State University.

"I think that the key on education is to make sure that we stay focused on how do we stay competitive into the 21st century," Bush said.

"I plan on doing some talking about math and science and engineering programs so that people who graduate out of college will have the skills necessary to compete in this competitive world," he said.

If neither math nor science is of interest to some students, a major in certain foreign languages deemed critical to national security would also qualify students to receive the new grant.

"The secretary of education would consult with the director of national intelligence to determine foreign languages of importance to national security," Forde wrote in an e-mail.

If the bill passes, the Department of Education would implement the aid programs.

However, education officials are still unsure how they will determine which high schools offer rigorous coursework, as well as which students qualify for federal financial aid from those high schools.

"We haven't decided yet how we're going to talk to the states about their schools," said Jane Glickman, public affairs specialist for the secretary of education.

"We'll have to talk to states and local school districts about their programs, and I'm sure it will be based on a set of standards they've established," Glickman said.

"Our job will be to make sure they're valid programs," she said.

If the House passes the bill, President Bush is expected to sign it.

Chinese

continued from page 1

a degree is part of the role Chinese students are expected to undertake, Ho said.

"Education is always stressed," he said. "A lot of Chinese parents put a lot of emphasis and stress to do well . . . our means to make ourselves better is through an education, and that's what a lot of people are here for, not necessarily Chinese-Americans."

A strong orientation toward family is something the president of Lambda Phi Epsilon, Vincent Kwong, also mentioned about Chinese culture. Kwong said his fraternity leaves that weekend open so Chinese members can go home to visit family.

"In our fraternity, over 60 percent of our guys are Chinese," Kwong said. "A lot of them are second-generation and we let them go home to celebrate with their family."

The Chinese Student Alliance started at Cal Poly in the 1920s as a transitory support group for first-generation Chinese immigrants. The original intent of the club was to carry on the Chinese traditions

the students were born with. In 1959 the club was formally inducted at Cal Poly as the Poly Chi Club.

Today, the CSA is composed of 50 members and serves as a way for second- and third-generation Chinese students to discover their original culture.

"We're trying to figure out what our culture is," Ho said. "We'll have a vibrant display of lion dance, river dance, umbrella dance and martial arts that's deeply engrained into our traditional background."

Club members, Ho said, are trying to figure out where their culture is headed.

"As we become more assimilated into the American culture, we lose a sense of what our traditions are, but in that sense we also break those barriers and form our new culture."

People can still join the CSA, which meets every other Tuesday at 8 p.m. in building 53 room 202.

To get tickets for Saturday's event, "Longevity Lotus," call (805) 543-4021, or e-mail csatickets@hotmail.com. Tickets are also available at Imperial China Restaurant on 667 Marsh St., Friday 5-7 p.m. and Saturday 4-7 p.m. The price for admission is \$16.



su | do | ku

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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HARD

6

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MUSTANG MINUTE

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Friday, January 27, 2006

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WHO SAID THAT?

Remember that as a teenager you are at the last stage of your life when you will be happy to hear that the phone is for you.

— Fran Lebowitz

If there is anything the nonconformist hates worse than a conformist, it's another nonconformist who doesn't conform to the prevailing standard of nonconformity.

— Bill Vaughan

MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to editor@mustangdaily.net.

• The Face of Cal Poly personal response section, which ran on Thursday, Jan. 26, incorrectly stated Andrew Humaydan's favorite song. It was supposed to read: "Final Countdown" by Europe.

Wordly Wise

Grantee: A man of elevated rank or station; a nobleman.

The Face of



Cal Poly

Name: Leah Groppo • **Year:** sophomore
Hometown: Sunnyville • **Major:** nutrition

Favorites

Song: It depends on my mood. I like all different kinds of music.

Place in SLO: Montana de Oro

Pastime: Running, riding horses and hanging out with friends.

Time of day: 12 p.m. or 10 p.m. because that's when I have the most energy.

Dessert: Everything, unless it has raisins.

If You Could ...

— travel anywhere, where would you go and why?

Italy, because I think that Italian food is amazing and the culture is definitely different than the U.S.

— meet anyone, who and why?

My mom's parents. Because I never have.

— have any superpower, what would it be?

To be anywhere in the world in the blink of an eye.

Mustang Daily Religious Directory

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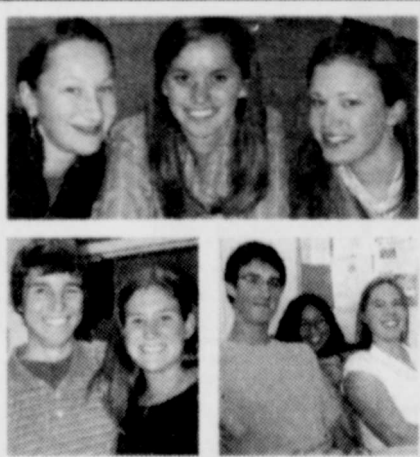
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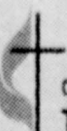
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California becomes first to declare secondhand smoke a pollutant

Don Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — California became the first state to declare secondhand smoke a toxic air pollutant Thursday, citing its link to breast cancer. Experts said the decision may have more impact worldwide than it does in the largely smoke-free state.

The decision by the California Air Resources Board puts environmental tobacco smoke in the same category as diesel exhaust, arsenic and benzene.

The unanimous decision relied on a September report that found a sharply increased risk of breast cancer in young women exposed to secondhand smoke. It also links drifting smoke to premature births, asthma, heart disease, other cancers and numerous health problems in children.

"If people are serious about breast cancer, they have to deal with secondhand smoke. That's what this is all about," said Dr. Stanton Glantz, director of the Center for Tobacco Control, Research and Education at the University of California, San Francisco. He reviewed the science behind Thursday's decision. "This is a seminal, international document. It's impossible to underestimate what a big deal this is."

The report by scientists at California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment draws on more than 1,000 other studies of the effects of passive smoke. It blamed secondhand smoke for 4,000 deaths each year in California from lung cancer or heart disease alone.

The most significant new finding is that young women exposed to secondhand smoke increase their risk of developing breast can-

cer between 68 percent and 120 percent. The disease kills about 40,000 women in the United States each year.

That finding conflicts with a 2004 report by the U.S. Surgeon General. Sanford Barsky, a UC, Los Angeles, researcher writing on behalf of the R.J. Reynolds tobacco company, told the board the report "either ignores mentioning or does not give the appropriate weight to studies which refute this association" between secondhand smoke and breast cancer.

California scientists say their research is more current than the Surgeon General's report. The California report went through an exhaustive review that delayed its release for nearly a year but ensures it is based on sound research, said Dr. John Froines, director of UCLA's Center for Occupational and Environmental Health and head of the scientific review panel.

Reynolds' spokesman David Howard said regardless of the dangers from passive smoke indoors, no research supports regulators' decision to declare it an air pollutant.

"No studies exist that show that exposure outdoors leads to any increased risk of tobacco-associated illness," he said.

Next, the air board must consider regulatory steps to reduce exposure, a process that could take years.

"This is no longer some crazy, California, Left Coast way of thinking," said Cynthia Hallett, executive director of the Berkeley-based Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights. She cited smoking bans that have been enacted or are being considered across the nation and in other countries.

Hamas shocks Palestinians, world by winning majority in parliament



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinian supporters of Islamic Hamas wave flags during a rally in support of candidates for the Palestinian parliamentary elections in the West Bank town of Hebron in this Jan. 23, 2006 photo.

Ravi Nessman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Islamic militant Hamas' landslide victory in Palestinian elections unnerved the world Thursday, darkening prospects for Mideast peace and ending four decades of rule by the corruption-riddled Fatah Party.

The parliamentary victory stunned even Hamas leaders, who mounted a well-organized campaign but have no experience in government. They offered to share power with President Mahmoud Abbas, the Fatah chief, who said he may go around the new government to talk peace with Israel.

Underscoring the tensions between the secular Fatah and fundamentalist Hamas, some 3,000 supporters of the militant group

marched through Ramallah and raised their party's green flag over the Palestinian parliament. Fatah supporters tried to lower the banner. The two sides fought for about 30 minutes, throwing stones and breaking windows in the building.

Abbas, who was elected last year to a four-year term as president of the Palestinian Authority, has yet to decide how closely to work with a group that built its clout through suicide bombings. But his Fatah Party decided not to join a Hamas government, Fatah legislator Saab Erekat said.

"We will be a loyal opposition and rebuild the party," Erekat said after meeting with Abbas.

Hamas won a clear majority in Wednesday's vote, capturing 76 of the 132 seats in parliament, according to official, near-complete results released Thursday. The results of the popular vote were not announced.

Four independent candidates backed by Hamas also won seats. Fatah, which has dominated Palestinian political life since the

1960s but alienated voters because of rampant corruption, got 43 seats. The remaining went to smaller parties.

Palestinians across the Gaza Strip and West Bank greeted the election results with joy, setting off fireworks and firing rifles in the air.

But leaders across the world demanded that Hamas, which is branded a terror group by the U.S. and European Union, renounce violence and recognize Israel.

"If your platform is the destruction of Israel, it means you're not a partner in peace, and we're interested in peace," President Bush said in Washington.

Acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel will not negotiate with a Palestinian government that includes Hamas members, and senior Cabinet officials held an emergency meeting to discuss the repercussions of the vote. Acting Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni asked the EU not to deal with a "terror government."

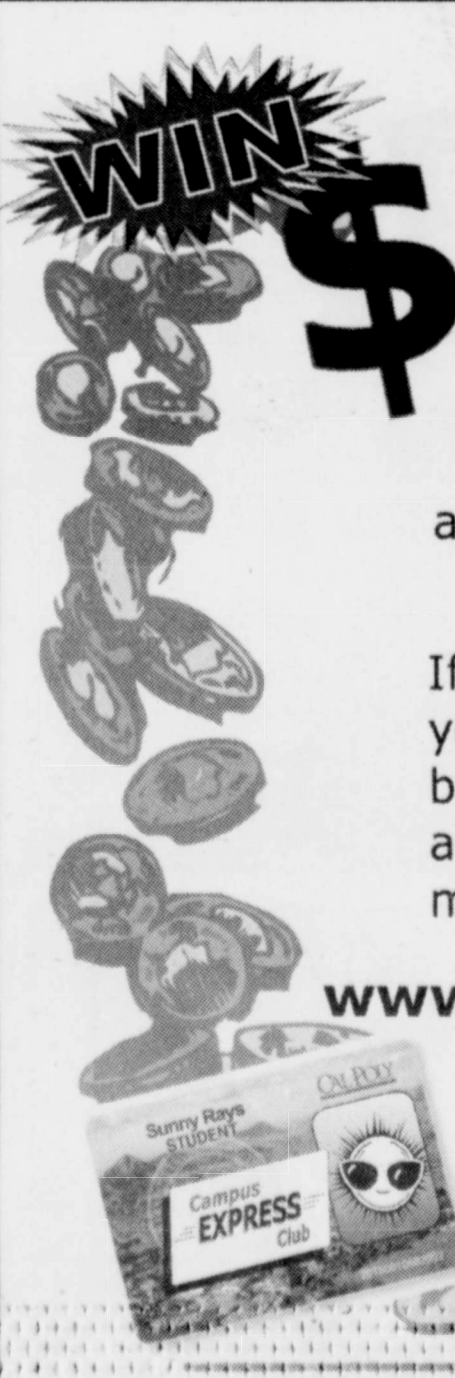
Hamas leaders immediately took to the international — and even Israeli — airwaves to send out a moderate message.

"Don't be afraid," Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader, told the BBC.

Mahmoud Zahar, another Hamas leader, said the group would extend its year-old truce if Israel reciprocates. "If not, then I think we will have no option but to protect our people and our land," he said.

At a victory news conference late Thursday, however, Haniyeh said Hamas will "complete the liberation of other parts of Palestine." He did not say which territories he was referring to or how he would go about it.





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Nintendo DS takes racing to new levels with 'Mario Kart'



COURTESY PHOTO

Tyler Stewart

THE REFLECTOR (MISSISSIPPI STATE U.)

MISSISSIPPI STATE, Miss. — The "Mario Kart" series set its skids in gaming history over a decade ago on the Super Nintendo console, but the latest installment, "Mario Kart DS," has paved its way into near-perfection with more than its familiar faces and exciting tracks.

"Mario Kart DS," for the Nintendo DS handheld, is the first of its kind. For the first time ever, gamers can race each other via Nintendo WiFi, a free wireless online service for DS owners. Anyone with a DS and a wireless Internet connection can play online with others from around the globe, and those without a wireless connection can take a trip over to local hotspots to get their high-octane fix of online Mario and pals. With an easy-to-use connection interface, the DS pretty much does everything for you in terms of setting up your WiFi access point.

The game itself feels familiar,

but it's distinctly different from its predecessors. "Mario Kart DS" is more of a fusion of downgraded "Mario Kart: Double Dash!!" visuals and upgraded "Mario Kart 64" gameplay (including the coveted hop), using other elements from both titles and adding its own to create a unique racing experience.

An impressive 32 tracks, including 16 throwbacks from the Super Nintendo, Nintendo 64 and Gamecube "Mario Kart" titles make the DS racer one to keep playing into the night, though some of the tracks aren't available online.

Original tracks, namely "Waluigi Pinball" and "Airship Fortress" really utilize the DS's graphical capabilities and further enhance the gaming experience.

Another new feature, though somewhat borrowed from "Double Dash!!," is the ability to choose from several karts. The initial cast of eight can choose between a standard kart and a personalized kart, each with its own signature tuning. As players progress, they can unlock more karts, a total of

36 to be precise.

Which leads to the next incentive of playing "Mario Kart DS" all the way through. Players can unlock an extensive cache of hidden features including tracks, race classes, characters and those aforementioned karts.

Players aren't limited to standard racing either.

The classic balloon battles, shine catching and new mission mode make the game infinitely replayable to most, but for some odd reason Nintendo decided not to make these features available online. What a bummer, too. There's nothing like knocking your buddy off the map with a red shell and bursting his rubber bubble.

Despite "Mario Kart DS"'s lack of online options, gamers won't be disappointed in what the game has to offer.

Being the flagship title for the WiFi system and taking advantage of the DS handheld's offline technical capabilities, "Mario Kart DS" is a mushroom trip worth taking over and over.

Survey: One in three parents play video games

May Wong

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JOSE, Calif. — In a sign that video games are becoming more popular as family entertainment, a national survey released Thursday indicates joysticks aren't just for the children in the house.

Thirty-five percent, or about one in three parents, say they play, too, and 80 percent of that segment play video games with their children, according to the new survey commissioned by the

father of two.

As the founder of GamerDad.com, a Web site with game reviews and a discussion forum for parents, Bub has promoted the idea of video games as a family-bonding tool for years.

"Kids are going to play what they want to play, and parents are better off getting involved instead of sitting on the sidelines," he said.

Other survey findings: The typical gamer parent is 37-years old and almost half the group are women.

The survey

of 501 parents with children between the ages of 2 and 17 was conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates in November 2005. The margin of error was plus or minus 4.4 percent.

The Entertainment Software Association, which is challenging various state laws banning the sales of violent video games to minors, noted that about two of every three parents surveyed agreed it is not the role of the government to protect kids from violent games.

The average "gamer parent" spends 19 hours a month playing video games ...

Poly Poetry

Funeral (Boyfriend Box)

Three days ago this died tragically
Now it's time I put you away
Force some logic and closure
Inside the box where you'll stay

The black flowers line your casket
Where I lay you to rest
Though I love to burn you down to ash
I find this preservation best
My poems act as eulogies
Of the good times we had spent
I pray silently over the wilted
Remains of the bouquet that you sent
A receipt, a card, a mix cd
Throw in that stuffed bear I carried
Inside the shoe box and away from me
Into my closet where you'll be buried
Fear not, I will visit your grave
In times of morose desperation
But for now I let you die
With a final incantation
Even though you still live and breathe
A thousand miles away
Somehow I must confine you
Inside the box where you'll stay

— Robyn Kontra
Journalism sophomore

THE FABULOUS ADVENTURES OF FRANK AND LULU

The Velvet Rope returns next week — stay tuned

They're playing "My Humps!" This is my jam!

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"It makes me feel better he hates life too."

MUSTANG DAILY
OPINION/EDITORIAL

Friday, January 27, 2006

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www.mustangdaily.net

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HUMOR COLUMN

Rumor Patrol: Was that Pete Sampras on campus?

You know when you think you see some kid you knew from high school, but it turns out to be some ugly dude? Well, that happened to us, but it turned out to be professional tennis star Pete Sampras!

As Cal Poly's officially sanctioned Rumor Patrol, we shall be the first to report that Mr. Sampras not only peruses the halls of Cal Poly, but is in fact a student! You may think to yourself, faithful Mustang Daily reader, what are the Rumor Patrol's credentials? To you we say this: You're being very uncouth, and you're headed for a time out.

You want to know our credentials? Well, thanks to the Rumor Patrol, they caught that wild bear

running around in the business building, and we also predicted that the band playing during UU Hour would be "not that great."

Last week, on our way for simultaneous tea, crumpets, and skydiving with rebel billionaire Richard Branson, a muscular figure slammed into our flowing velvet robes, knocking us to the ground. The Two Classy Gents sought an immediate apology; however, as the figure bent to retrieve his papers from the ground, he flexed a four-foot round thigh. Could it be professional tennis star Pete Sampras?

If you're wondering what to do when encountering professional tennis star Pete Sampras, here are a few guidelines:

1. Always carry a tennis racket. Any time is game time for Sampras.
2. Never leave food out. A hungry

Sampras is everwilling to ruin a perfectly good picnic.

3. Don't comment how hot his wife was in "Billy Madison." He hates it when you do that.

4. If he looks ready to attack, begin flailing your arms wildly. Remember, Sampras is more afraid of you than you are of him. (Note: If Sampras is frothing at the mouth, he is rabid and your only chance at survival is to play dead.)

So we brushed aside the man's large unibrow, and of course it was Sampras. He noticed us noticing him and turned to leave. We asked: "What are you doing in our lives, Pete Sampras?" He winked, and with an enigmatic grin, whispered, "Saaammpraaassss." And like that, he was gone.

We were wondering why he whispered his own last name, especially since it didn't answer our question. We headed to the Admissions office, and surely enough, Betsy the secretary informed us that professional tennis star Pete Sampras is a part-time student at Cal Poly. The Rumor Patrol needed a juicier

scoop. Betsy let us know that Sampras is enrolled in two classes: pottery and intermediate witchcraft. We thought witchcraft was a little fishy for Sampras to be enrolled in, but Betsy let us know he was working on his backhand.

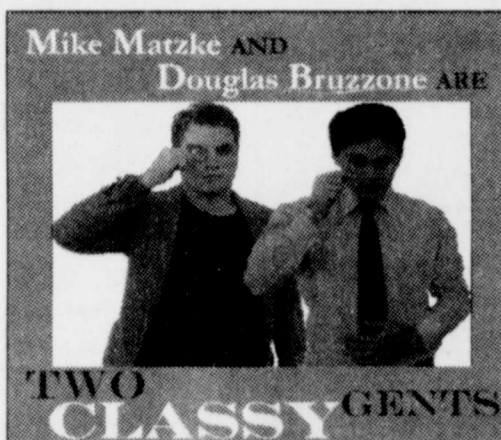
So there it is, faithful Mustang Daily reader. If you see a man with thighs the thickness of redwoods, and a heart of something richer than gold, like Supergold, then you might have run into professional tennis star Pete Sampras. If the man has two separate eyebrows, smaller legs, but still a heart of Supergold, run for your life, it's Agassi!

Rumor Patrol out!

Classy: T-minus 112 days until Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code" extravaganza!

Uncouth: The merger of UPN and WB. How will the Gilmore Girls handle this dilemma?

Doug Bruzzone and Mike Matzke are Two Classy Gents who moonlight as tennis champs on the weekends.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We need to stop the apathy and get cracking

In response to Brian Eller's commentary, I would like to say that I am appalled by the fact that some people are so close-minded about the major issues facing the environment. Since when does the holocaust have anything to do with global warming? How did Michael Crichton even come up with such a ludicrous analogy? How could rational steps world leaders take to curb environmental destruction kill millions?

I'm not saying the Kyoto Protocol is without flaw, but there should definitely be action taken to ensure that future generations have an environment that is in better (or at least no worse) shape than it is now. Thousands of scientists who agree with the global warming theory cannot be accused of pseudo-science; the ones who can are surely the ones such conservatives as Eller and George W. Bush listen to.

The things they tell Bush are probably just what he wants to hear: "Our sources tell us that the fight against global warming will cost the U.S. \$94 trillion. You might as well spend that invading another country instead." Eller says the money could be spent a number of other ways — one of them is to provide clean drinking water. Hellooooo. Another byproduct of caring for the environment. This is not to say that the responsibility of protecting Mother Earth lies only

in the hands of government; it lies with all of us. Recycling and other sustainable practices are a lot easier than you might think.

Evin Lambert

Environmental horticulture junior

Review is an embarrassment to the English language

Gino Macaluso's piece in Monday's Mustang Daily was the most offensive thing I have read in months. I don't care about whatever opinion of "Belle and Seby" he may have; I don't have much of one. I am offended because the Mustang Daily — the newspaper that represents this university — chose to publish it where other people could read it, making my degree worthless. Not only am I now ashamed to say that I attend Cal Poly, but also that English is my native language.

How can I even begin to make a concise, 250 word statement on this abomination? Should I start with the spelling errors, the misused words, the contradictions, the incomplete or nonsensical analogies or metaphors, or the words written in all capital letters at random? Should I perhaps begin with the paragraphs spent discussing other bands, the glaring errors in grammar and syntax, the onomatopoeias that stretch for entire lines, the interminable parenthetical clauses, or the blatant contradictions? Maybe I should open with the plain fact most of the words do not form coherent thoughts?

Oh no, that's already 183 words. I guess I'll just use the remainder to ask some more questions: How could pocket lint form a bastion? How could a bastion of lint construct "stuff"? Who in his

right mind would make a pocket out of cashmere? If this album is so bad, why is it "worth a trip to the record store?" Is this piece a hyper-ironic advertisement for the University Writing Lab?

Steve Rosen

City and regional planning senior

Try reviewing something recent for a change

What could be more foolish than giving a poor review to a record that is clearly perfect? Perhaps doing so, ten years after it's released.

Before Gino Macaluso attempted to pen such an absurd disapproval of Belle & Sebastian's 1996 LP "If You're Feeling Sinister," it might have been wise to first consider that everyone who gives a tinker's damn about music has already fallen in love with this masterpiece.

Macaluso says that Stuart Murdoch's voice is the hang-up, steadfastly refusing the act of "dealing with that guy's voice." Are these not the very words forever on the lips of every douchebag who rejects Bob Dylan, Radiohead and the Violent Femmes?

To be "quite blunt," Gino, those kinds of people (you) shouldn't be writing about music. In fact, as you say, your article is not a review at all, but rather "a biased opinion." If this bias was too much for you to overcome, perhaps you should have written a piece on the 2004 US re-release of Camera Obscura's "Underachievers Please Try Harder." It's a bit more recent, and as a fellow CO fan, I'm sure that you could give them all the respect they deserve, while expanding their already excellent fan base: Me.

Jesse Bo Widmark

Architectural engineering senior

Sex column too graphic for conservative students

It is mind-boggling how such a sexually explicit article made it to print, in what others have told me is a largely conservative student body at Cal Poly, among the most conservative student bodies among California State schools. Am I then to expect pornographic images when I open up the papers of other California State schools, if we are supposedly more conservative?

Imagine a 17-year-old, which is about the age of a freshman student who just entered Cal Poly this fall quarter. He or she opens the paper to come across far too explicit descriptions of sexual positions and appalling analogies to methods of sexual gratification, and more specifically, in big bold letters, "in sex-namics, a handjob cancels out a finger-bang."

Be just a little creative, and consider how this could lead to damaging the reputation of nationally-ranked Cal Poly, let alone the mind of a young student.

Yes, this is a free country, and you may do as you wish, but certain activities are to be reserved for private. We all have sexual desires, and that is a fact no human can deny; however, the way we communicate these desires, shows class which apparently you lack.

Daniel, I hope that the next time you consider to share your detailed fantasies in such a gratuitous manner with the student body, that you thoroughly consider the consequences of your actions.

Hooman Noori

Business administration junior



BRENNAN ANGEL, MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly freshman guard Chaz Thomas is pressured by Pacific's Johnny Gray. Thomas finished the game with six rebounds and three rebounds.

Basketball

continued from page 8

as being, "from downtown."

The Mustangs continued their assault on the Tigers' lead, going on a 16-0 run to take the lead 57-56 with 4:03 remaining.

Pacific's 6'7" Anthony Brown took a pass under the basket and missed a wide open lay-up, bringing a roar from the crowd of 2,603. Two plays later, Stockalper made one of Cal Poly's 13 three-pointers on the night to give Cal Poly the lead.

Cal Poly didn't hit another shot until Tyler McGinn made a three-pointer over Maraker with 1:21 remaining.

Gray dribbled the ball at mid-court for Pacific with under 30-seconds to go, trying to run time off the clock. But with 19.9 seconds remaining, Gray was whistled for a five-second violation to give Cal Poly the ball.

Whiten took a pass from Clark on the left wing, dribbled around the perimeter and took an off-balanced 20-footer to end the game.

Cal Poly returns to action Saturday, hosting Cal State Northridge at 4:05 p.m. in Mott Gym.

Baseball

continued from page 8

for the fourth season by Mike Batesole (.89-.87, Cal State Fullerton '90), have all eight returning position starters back as well as six pitchers (two starters) poised to make a run at the Western Athletic Conference championship and a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Top returnees include outfielder Nick Moresi (.352, 11 home runs, 54 RBIs in 2005) and third baseman Beau Mills (.319, 22 home runs, 63 RBIs). The Bulldog pitching staff is led by right-hander Doug Fister (7-6, 4.32 ERA), southpaw Eddie Romero (6-4, 4.62 ERA) and closer Ryan Penn (2-3, 4.35, three saves).

A year ago at Pete Beiden Field, the Mustangs swept Fresno State for the first time in the 60-year history of the rivalry, beginning Cal Poly's run of 26 wins in its final 37 games, including four of six, 12 of 18 and 21 of 29. The Bulldogs still own a 108-48 advantage in the series dating back to 1945.

In addition to Olson's 12 wins, other school records were broken by Bille with 14 saves last season and 15 in his career, Olson's 136 innings pitched in 2005 and Cal Poly's 19 saves as a team. Olson finished the regular season in the top 10 in four national statistical categories while Bille was tied for third in saves and Roberts tied for fourth in triples.

With the exception of an exhibition game against British Columbia on Feb. 8, Cal Poly will play its next nine games on the road, beginning Feb. 3-5 at San Jose State. The Mustangs also visit Loyola Marymount on Feb. 10-12 and San Diego State on Feb. 17-19.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

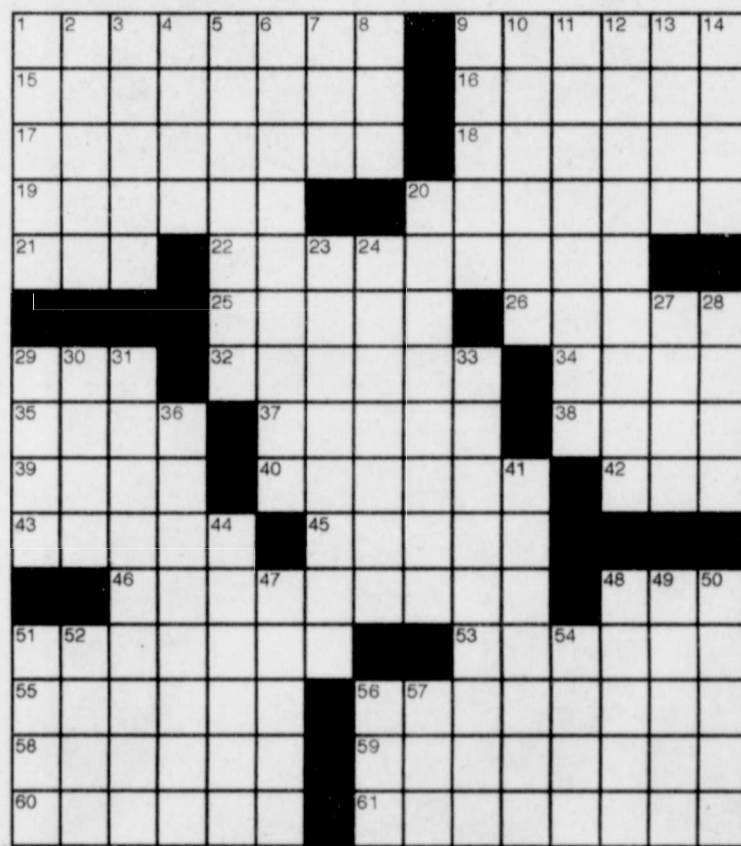
No. 1216

- ACROSS**
- 1 Expire
- 9 Top removed by attendants
- 15 Be in concert
- 16 Library feature
- 17 Cormorants, e.g.
- 18 Suddenly arose
- 19 Barely move?
- 20 Cinderella's clothes
- 21 Sister of Selene
- 22 Wanes
- 25 Destructive 1999 Florida hurricane
- 26 Glower
- 29 Glower, maybe
- 32 Aid in creating an idealized figure
- 34 Former lakeshore tribe
- 35 Not rot
- 37 Seed structure
- 38 Locale of the Bocca Nuova crater
- 39 Fix
- 40 Camel alternatives
- 42 Alluring
- 43 Thinking ____
- 45 "Walk Away ____" (1966 hit)
- 46 Good vantage point
- 48 You can burn it
- 51 Fairy tale figures

- 53 Cousin of a capillary
- 55 Restaurant cry
- 56 Member of a historical trio
- 58 Agreement
- 59 Exhausted
- 60 Mite-sized
- 61 Start attacking

DOWN

- 1 So last year
- 2 Prefix with phenetidin
- 3 Cancer components
- 4 "Quién ____?"
- 5 Like many elephants
- 6 Glad-hand, as politicians are wont to do
- 7 What's more
- 8 "I knew it!"
- 9 Balls
- 10 Much
- 11 Without even a warning
- 12 Emerge
- 13 Maintain
- 14 Xers?
- 20 Fringe of the green?
- 23 Misapplies
- 24 Guarantees
- 27 Lush



Puzzle by Joe DiPietro

- 28 Trim
- 29 Some pods
- 30 A line winds in and out of it
- 31 Fish might go over it
- 33 Powwow
- 36 Go all out
- 41 Attack
- 44 Grandparents, typically
- 47 Square
- 48 Things not wanted in locker rooms
- 49 Sacrificial site
- 50 Flirt
- 51 Hit hard
- 52 Clip
- 54 Son of Willy Loman
- 56 "You ____?"
- 57 One in the Army

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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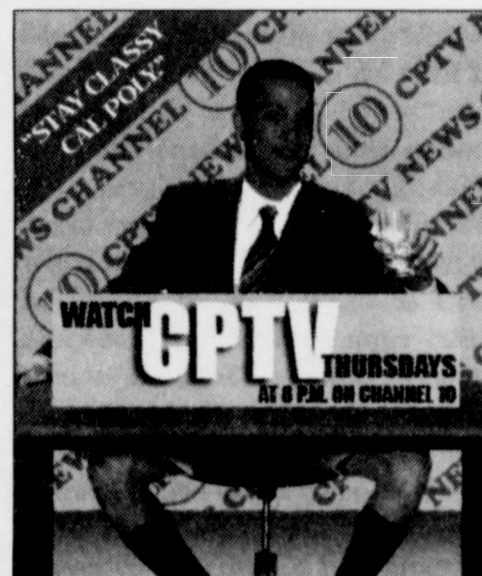
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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ABET ADAGES XES
WASASREDASABEET
ASTRA REVE ERSE
EVE DETESTER
ADDRESS SAE
TAE SERF STETS
TWASTEWARDESSES
AGREE SEER QTR
DAS DEBASES
GAZETTES WEB
AVER AGEE SCREW
SETSATARGETDATE
ERA SEDGES EVAS
STS ASSERT FEST

The grid contains all the letters and only the letters that are touch-typed using the left hand.



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Mustang comeback falls short

Cal Poly went on a 16-point run in the second half to take the lead 57-56 with 4:03 remaining, only to lose 64-62 in another Big West heartbreaker

Frank Stranzl
MUSTANG DAILY

Dawin Whiten came to life in the second-half again for the Mustangs, helping bring the Mustangs back from a 15-point second-half deficit, only to miss a last-second three-point attempt that would've given the Mustangs an upset victory.

The Mustangs received the ball after a five-second call against Pacific's Johnny Gray for not advancing the ball while being pressured with 19.9 seconds remaining. Cal Poly coach Kevin Bromley opted to avoid using a timeout, which would allow the Tigers to set up on defense, and called Dawin's number.

"It was a break down play, I didn't hear the original call, so I didn't know what we were running," Whiten said. "I just broke to the ball, caught it and I had an okay look, thought I could make it, but I didn't."

With the loss, Cal Poly falls to 3-3 in Big West play and 5-12 overall. Pacific improves to 3-2 in conference play and 13-6 overall.

The Tigers were led by a balanced attack offensively with four Pacific players scoring double digits.

For Cal Poly, Whiten finished with 19 points on six-of-18 shooting, including five-of-11 from three-point range, while teammate Derek Stockalper had a big night with 18 points.

A big achievement for the Mustangs was holding Pacific's Christian Maraker to nine points on four-of-15 shooting. Maraker, a Swedish born player, entered the game fourth in the Big West in points-per-game with 17.6.

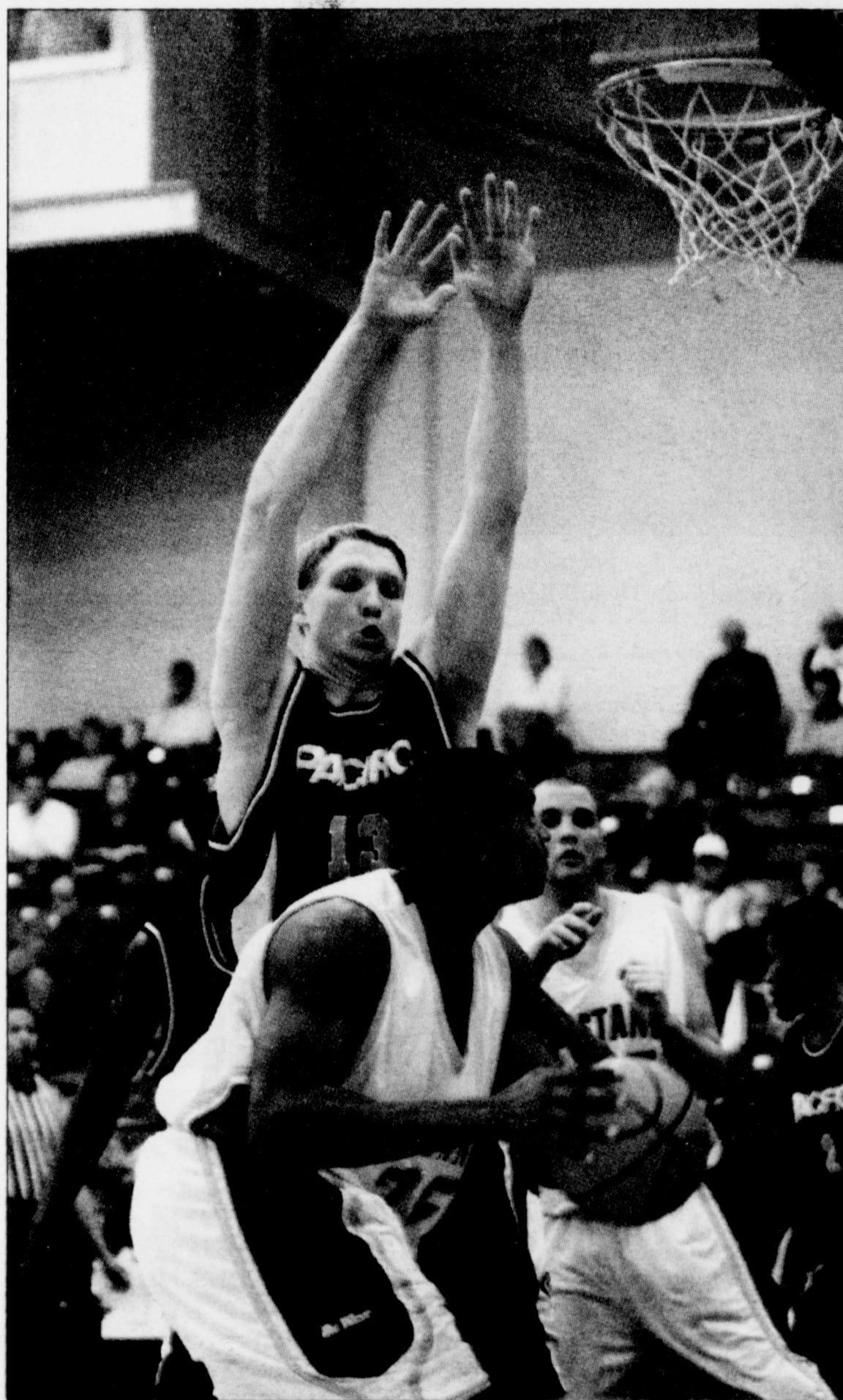
Cal Poly trailed 33-27 heading into half-time.

The Tigers began to pull away early in the second-half, going ahead by 11 five minutes in. Anthony Esparza hit his third three of the season to give the Tigers an 11 point lead.

Cal Poly cut the Tigers' lead to four with 12 minutes remaining, but Pacific again went on a run, increasing their lead to 15.

However, the Mustangs weren't done yet.

Trae Clark collected a loose ball near half-court and hit a three. On the other end of the floor, Cal Poly rebounded the



BRENNAN ANGEL MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly freshman forward Titus Shelton works for an open shot against Pacific's Christian Maraker in the first half of Cal Poly's 64-62 loss.

ball and found Whiten two passes later for an easy lay-up.

Pacific coach Bob Thomason called a timeout to try and halt the shift in momentum with his team nursing a 56-46 lead.

The play didn't work.

Whiten found the range from three-point distance on back-to-back possessions, his second came from an area on the court an NBA announcer might describe

see Basketball, page 7

WRESTLING

MUSTANGS HOST SUN DEVILS

As previously advertised, Cal Poly wrestling is hosting the Arizona State Sun Devils in one of the biggest home duals of the season. Be sure to slip on into Mott Gym tonight at 7 p.m. and check out the Mustangs as they fight for a win against the top team in the Pac-10.

SWIMMING

DUAL IN THE POOL

While the men's team has the week off and begins to taper for the Big West meet in three weeks, the women's swim team hosts San Diego State and Pepperdine Saturday at 12 p.m. Swimming strong for the Mustangs are Stacey Sorensen and Kira Linsmeier.

They should put up improved times as the season nears its end.

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

EMERALD CITY BOUND

The Cal Poly women's indoor track team continues its season at the University of Washington Invitational and will compete in a dual meet against the University of Hawaii on Sunday. The invitational is scheduled to take place Friday and Saturday. This will be the first full squad meet for the women's indoor team, although injuries will keep several athletes at home this weekend.



Baseball opens three-game series with Fresno State

Cal Poly opens the season ranked fourth in the Big West pre-season coaches poll after finishing third in 2005

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Cal Poly opens the 2006 baseball season this weekend, hosting Fresno State for a three-game series in Baggett Stadium.

Friday's contest begins at 6 p.m., while first pitch for the Saturday and Sunday games will be at 1 p.m. All three games will be broadcast on the Internet at www.GoPoly.com.

Larry Lee, entering his fourth season as Mustang mentor, guided Cal Poly to a tie for second place in

the Big West Conference with Long Beach State, both 14-7 last year. The Mustangs finished just two games behind 2004 national champion Cal State Fullerton in 2005 and finished 36-20, but was denied an NCAA Tournament berth.

Cal Poly broke five all-time school records, produced three national top-10 leaders in individual statistics and has won 74 games the last two seasons, but will lose five players this year. pitcher Garrett Olson, first baseman Bret Berglund and outfielder Brandon Roberts, and a pair of seniors, pitcher Jimmy Shull and catcher Kyle Blumenthal, to Major League Baseball's Amateur Draft last June.

Ten other seniors, including closer Mike Bille, who signed a free-agent contract prior to the draft, also are gone.

Top returnees include pitchers Gary Daley Jr. and Bud Norris, second baseman Brent Walker, third baseman Josh Lansford and outfielders Matt Cooper and Jimmy Van Ostrand. Van Ostrand, who hit .345 a year ago with four home runs and 25 RBIs, moves to first base this spring.

Fresno State was 30-29 a year ago but has earned a couple of national rankings this preseason, No. 25 by Baseball America and No. 40 by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper. The Bulldogs, coached

see Baseball, page 7



SHEILA SOBCHIK MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly second baseman Brent Walker will return to action this season with sophomore Patrick Pezet backing him up.